Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 06621 280801Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-02 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01
ABF-01 AGRE-00 AF-08 /080 W
----------280809Z 005322 /21
R 280740Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 521

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 6621

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EAID EAGR TH
SUBJECT: PL 480 TITLE I SALE TO TANZANIA - RICE

REF: A) STATE 66980, B) STATE 066791, C) BANGKOK 6062

1. WE VERY MUCH REGRET THAT PL-480 TITLE I SALE OF RICE TO TANZANIA HAS BEEN SIGNED WITHOUT AWAITING SECOND THAI RESPONSE. WE ARE DISTURBED BY THIS INDICATION THAT OUR LONG STANDING ARRANGEMENT TO CONSULT WITH THE RTG PRIOR TO CONSIDERING PL-480 RICE SALES IS BEING UNDERMINED.

2. AS NOTED IN ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE'S CIRCULAR TELEGRAM ON THE SUBJECT OF US POLICY IN ASIA, THERE IS A WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN THIS AREA THAT THE US IS UNLIKELY TO MEET ITS SECURITY AND OTHER COMMITMENTS AND THAT IT HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD. RECENT STATEMENTS BY HIGH DECISION-MAKING OFFICIALS ON THIS ISSUE HAVE BEEN HELPFUL BUT WE ARE JUDGED NOT BY WHAT WE SAY BUT BY WHAT WE DO.

3. THE SENSITIVITY OF THE THAI GOVERNMENT AND THAI
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PUBLIC OPINION TO THE GENERAL QUESTION OF AMERICAN RICE SALES ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS SHOULD BE WELL UNDERSTOOD. IT IS HARD FOR ME TO BELIEVE THAT THE URGENCY OF THIS CASE WAS SUCH THAT WE HAD TO ACT IN A MANNER WHICH WILL BE VIEWED HERE AS INSENSITIVE AND HIGH-HANDED.

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4. WE ARE RELUCTANT TO RUSH IN AND INFORM THE THAI OF THIS SIGNING. WE CLING TO THE HOPE THAT THEY WILL IN THE NEXT DAY OR SO RESPOND TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ARGUMENTS THAT TANZANIA IS NOT A REGULAR COMMERCIAL IMPORTER AND INDICATE THEY HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THE SALE. SHOULD THEY LEARN WE HAVE GONE AHEAD WITHOUT FULLY CONSIDERING THEIR POSITION WE WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH AN UNPLEASANT SITUATION. THE THAI HAVE APPRECIATED THE ESTABLISHED CONSULTATIVE ARRANGEMENT AND EVIDENCE THE PROCESS HAS BEEN BREACHED WILL BE ALARMING. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE REASSURANCE SYSTEM IS NOT BEING ABANDONED. FOR EXAMPLE, WE HAVE INDICATIONS SUBSTANTIAL PL-480 SALES TO INDONESIA ARE BEING CONSIDERED.
IT IS IMPERATIVE ADHERE
RIGIDLY TO USUAL MARKETING REQUIREMENTS FOR SALES TO THAILAND'S TRADITIONAL CUSTOMERS. ANY DEVIATION FROM THIS PRINCIPAL WILL CREATE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR US.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: SALES, RICE, TREATY SIGNATURE, PL 480 TITLE 1
Control Number: n/a
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Sent Date: 28-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Litigation History:
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TAGS: PFOR, EAID, EAGR, TH
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